2005

Touching Lives in the Classroom

Beth Rogers Thompson

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol1/iss3/19

This article is brought to you for free via open access, courtesy of DigitalCommons@Linfield. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@linfield.edu.
As a young man growing up in Seattle, Wash., Daniel O’Leary ’86 set his sights on medical school. But after studies at Linfield and an internship at B&M spurred other interests. Today, he is a Ph.D. rather than an M.D., an award-winning associate professor of chemistry at Pomona College in Claremont, Calif.

O’Leary graduated magna cum laude from Linfield with a B.A. in chemistry and biology. He earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from UCLA in 1991. As a graduate student, he won the 1988 American Chemical Society, Organic Division Fellowship and UCLA’s 1991 Winstead Scholarship Prize. A postdoctoral stint at Harvard completed his formal training. Since 1994, he has taught chemistry at Pomona, a college that shares Linfield’s emphasis on undergraduate education. In 1997 and 2003, he received Pomona’s highest teaching award. As a professor in 2003 he also won the college’s Irvine Distinguished Faculty Mentor Award.

O’Leary said he was the first person in his family to attend a small college.

“My high school track coach got me thinking about Linfield,” he said, “and I figured he wouldn’t steer me wrong. He told me one thing about Linfield, and I said, ‘Well, I can’t let that happen to me. I’ve been around enough people in this place that the people I felt in love with the small college atmosphere and made a decision that I wanted to attend a college.’

“A nationally recognized organic chemist, O’Leary specializes in nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, which he translates as ‘a cousin of MRI (magnetic resonance imaging). It’s a cutting-edge view to look at molecular structure.’ He is interested in the synthesis and study of chemically modified biological structures. These investigations are funded by the National Science Foundation and by The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation.

At Pomona, O’Leary no longer involves undergraduates in his research. “They make it happen in the laboratory and then get to communicate their results at meetings and in scientific papers,” he said. “I’ve had several of my students with Pomona, a professor who had competed against him for Lewis and Clark’s track team during O’Leary’s Linfield years. And medical school? No regrets. O’Leary figures he has touched more lives teaching than he would have as a physician. He said he had helped many students advance to medical school, “so I’m doing my part for the health industry.”

– Beth Rogers Thompson

Touching lives in the classroom

Research. They’re comfortable around professors. They’re able to successfully operate in an intellectual environment.”

In spring 2001, O’Leary taught a graduate course at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and found that students who had attended smaller colleges were more likely to visit him during office hours.

At home, O’Leary said, he enjoys being active with his family. He met his wife, June, at UCLA, where she earned an M.S. in biochemistry and a Ph.D. in public health. She works as a consultant for the Rand Corp. They have three daughters, 8, 3 and 2. O’Leary was an assistant coach for his 8-year-old soccer team.

He joined Linfield’s Board of Trustees in 2004 and continues to follow Linfield sports. He watched the 2004 football national championship game on television with a Pomona friend who had competed against him for Lewis and Clark’s track team during O’Leary’s Linfield years.

Hill‘bove married James Neville ’86, of Denver, Colo., married James Weynner ’80, Sept. 30 at McMinnville

Boston (Biron) Arnold ’04, of McMinnville, Dec. 12.

Corrine Sparks and Matt Miccazzi, both of Lake Oswego, were married Aug. 21 in Salem. She is an outreach counselor for Linfield’s College admission and transfer office. Miccazzi is an English as a second language instruc-

Karen Colby ’00, of Everett, Wash., in prevention resource education services group of the Portland Oregon Veterans Association.

Deborah Schor and John—Dion, both of District, were married July 25 in Corvallis.

Crystal Mascarro ’04 of Hillsboro wrote with clinical services group of the Portland Oregon Veterans Association.

Stephanie Martine ’04 of Lake Oswego married Janie Benjig Aug. 3. She is an accountant with Parent Partnership.

In memoriam


Robert G. Gemmill ’31 of Des Moines, Iowa, June 11.

Dorothy (Rolan) Rhoades ’41 of Bend, Oct. 6.

Stanley P. Cordell ’39 of Klamath Falls, Calif., Oct. 5.

In spring 2001, O’Leary taught a graduate course at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and found that students who had attended smaller colleges were more likely to visit him during office hours.

At home, O’Leary said, he enjoys being active with his family. He met his wife, June, at UCLA, where she earned an M.S. in biochemistry and a Ph.D. in public health. She works as a consultant for the Rand Corp. They have three daughters, 8, 3 and 2. O’Leary was an assistant coach for his 8-year-old soccer team.

He joined Linfield’s Board of Trustees in 2004 and continues to follow Linfield sports. He watched the 2004 football national championship game on television with a Pomona friend who had competed against him for Lewis and Clark’s track team during O’Leary’s Linfield years.

Hill‘bove married James Neville ’86, of Denver, Colo., married James Weynner ’80, Sept. 30 at McMinnville

Boston (Biron) Arnold ’04, of McMinnville, Dec. 12.

Corrine Sparks and Matt Miccazzi, both of Lake Oswego, were married Aug. 21 in Salem. She is an outreach counselor for Linfield’s College admission and transfer office. Miccazzi is an English as a second language instruc-

Karen Colby ’00, of Everett, Wash., in prevention resource education services group of the Portland Oregon Veterans Association.

Deborah Schor and John—Dion, both of District, were married July 25 in Corvallis.

Crystal Mascarro ’04 of Hillsboro wrote with clinical services group of the Portland Oregon Veterans Association.

Stephanie Martine ’04 of Lake Oswego married Janie Benjig Aug. 3. She is an accountant with Parent Partnership.

In memoriam


Robert G. Gemmill ’31 of Des Moines, Iowa, June 11.

Dorothy (Rolan) Rhoades ’41 of Bend, Oct. 6.

Stanley P. Cordell ’39 of Klamath Falls, Calif., Oct. 5.

In spring 2001, O’Leary taught a graduate course at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and found that students who had attended smaller colleges were more likely to visit him during office hours.

At home, O’Leary said, he enjoys being active with his family. He met his wife, June, at UCLA, where she earned an M.S. in biochemistry and a Ph.D. in public health. She works as a consultant for the Rand Corp. They have three daughters, 8, 3 and 2. O’Leary was an assistant coach for his 8-year-old soccer team.

He joined Linfield’s Board of Trustees in 2004 and continues to follow Linfield sports. He watched the 2004 football national championship game on television with a Pomona friend who had competed against him for Lewis and Clark’s track team during O’Leary’s Linfield years.

Hill‘bove married James Neville ’86, of Denver, Colo., married James Weynner ’80, Sept. 30 at McMinnville

Boston (Biron) Arnold ’04, of McMinnville, Dec. 12.

Corrine Sparks and Matt Miccazzi, both of Lake Oswego, were married Aug. 21 in Salem. She is an outreach counselor for Linfield’s College admission and transfer office. Miccazzi is an English as a second language instruc-

Karen Colby ’00, of Everett, Wash., in prevention resource education services group of the Portland Oregon Veterans Association.

Deborah Schor and John—Dion, both of District, were married July 25 in Corvallis.

Crystal Mascarro ’04 of Hillsboro wrote with clinical services group of the Portland Oregon Veterans Association.

Stephanie Martine ’04 of Lake Oswego married Janie Benjig Aug. 3. She is an accountant with Parent Partnership.